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United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, which details work undertaken by various entities of the United Nations system since mid-2005, is organized around seven thematic clusters established under the regional consultation mechanism of the United Nations agencies working in Africa.

Three selected policy issues in implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development are examined: innovative approaches developed by individual entities for funding of programmes; advocacy and awareness-raising efforts on the implementation of the New Partnership; and challenges and constraints faced by the United Nations system in supporting it. The report concludes by offering proposals to improve coordination among agencies of the United Nations system and to strengthen collaboration in support of the programmes of the New Partnership.

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I. Introduction

1. At its forty-fifth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that the Secretary-General report to its forty-sixth session on support by the United Nations system for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The present report responds to that request, taking into account the request of the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/222, that (a) the United Nations system continue to provide assistance to the African Union and NEPAD secretariats, and to African countries in developing projects and programmes within the scope of the priorities of the New Partnership, and (b) that the Secretary-General promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations in support of NEPAD, on the basis of the agreed clusters.

II. Support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

2. The present report details the work that entities of the United Nations system have undertaken in support of NEPAD since mid-2005, based on the inputs submitted by individual agencies regarding their work in Africa, and is organized around the thematic clusters established under the regional consultation mechanism of the United Nations agencies working in Africa. Support by entities of the United Nations system includes technical assistance, funding, advocacy and normative work.

A. Infrastructure development

3. The four sub-clusters under the cluster of infrastructure development are: transport, information and communication technologies (ICT), energy and water and sanitation.

4. The World Bank supports lending programme cuts across various sectors and subsectors of NEPAD. The Bank has been developing a number of sound NEPAD projects, worth some $2 billion, in the transport, trade, energy, water, telecom, financial and agricultural sectors over the next three fiscal years, including: projects in regional infrastructure responding to the short-term action plan priorities (two additional regional transport and trade facilitation projects) West and Central Africa, a southern regional communications infrastructure programme, the Southern and Western Africa power pools projects and other energy projects in the East, such as the cooperative development of the Kagera River, and management of water resources in the Niger and Nile River basins.

5. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) continues to assist in developing the programmes of the transport sector under the NEPAD infrastructure agenda, actively supporting the Yamoussoukro Decision on air transport liberalization, airport security and air safety in the region of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (aimed at facilitating the NEPAD short-term action plan), and is actively involved in monitoring its implementation. ECA and the African Union co-organized a meeting of the monitoring body for the Yamoussoukro Decision, on which a report was submitted to the African Union conference of Ministers responsible for air transport, held in Sun City, South Africa, from 16 to

19 May 2005. ECA also supported the preparation and adoption of competition rules for air transport liberalization in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC), and supported regional economic communities in organizing meetings and workshops on Member State implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision.

6. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) provides support for air transport development, particularly in the area of aviation safety, through various technical cooperation projects, such as the programme for cooperative development of operational safety and continuing airworthiness, a capacity-building programme in aviation safety oversight currently being implemented with the support of subregional organizations in Africa. Three such projects will be fully operational by August 2006. In addition, ICAO, through its Universal Security Audit Programme designed to promote global aviation security by auditing national aviation security systems, has made four aviation security audits of African States (end-August 2005 to end-January 2006), bringing the total number of audited African States to 33 since the launching of the programme in November 2002.

7. Responding to the New Partnership's emphasis on maritime security, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has provided technical assistance on maritime and port security to a number of African countries. As part of its support for maritime safety, from August to December 2005, IMO offered technical assistance and advisory missions in the drafting and updating of merchant shipping acts and regulations to Ghana, Seychelles and Sao Tome and Principe. Similar technical assistance is scheduled for Uganda (March-July 2006) and Guinea-Bissau (April-August 2006). IMO has also continued to evaluate the existing infrastructure in a number of African coastal countries to assist them in the establishment of international search and rescue procedures. A Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre has been built in Mombasa, Kenya, to be launched by the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization in May 2006, with sub-centres in the United Republic of Tanzania and Seychelles.

8. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) initiated a project to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with sustainable capacity to design and implement regional trade and transport facilitation initiatives. The TransCaprivi corridor, linking Walvis Bay, Namibia, and Lusaka, Zambia, was selected as the pilot transit corridor in Africa. During the first workshop in Lusaka (November 2005), Zambian and Namibian stakeholders from both the private and public sectors agreed to prepare a plan of action to examine solutions to major obstacles to trade and transport along the corridor. A follow-up meeting is to be held in Walvis Bay in June 2006 to discuss the implementation of identified measures to improve corridor performance.

9. In the ICT sector, support form the United Nations system was focused on preparation for both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 10-12 December 2003, and Tunis, 16-18 November 2005) and the relevant NEPAD programme. ECA sponsored and coordinated several conferences, including an African ministerial conference on the follow-up to the first phase of the Summit, and the African regional preparatory conference in preparation for the second phase, held in Accra from 2 to 4 February 2005. Also as follow-up to the Summit, ECA

will work with the African Union in implementing the African regional action plan on the knowledge economy.

10. The United Nations University (UNU) joined the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in developing the African University Network to enhance the capabilities of African universities to contribute to and benefit from the emerging global information society. The network is a practical response to the plan of action of the Summit and an important contribution to NEPAD implementation in the education sector. A report on the feasibility of the network, including case studies from universities in participating countries, was presented at a special event of the second phase of the Summit in Tunis, organized by the Association of African Universities in November 2005.

11. As part of its broader ICT development objectives for Africa, the NEPAD e-Africa Commission and ITU undertook a study on broadband infrastructure for Central, North and West Africa. The study examined existing and planned infrastructure in the subregion as well as an overview of regulatory frameworks. The outcome of the study was presented in a report to a workshop involving all stakeholders in broadband infrastructures in Central, North and West Africa. The conclusions of the report have been used as input to various strategy documents, in particular the report entitled "Partnership framework for ICT infrastructure development in Africa". ITU has also made several contributions to the NEPAD e-school initiative, by providing support in the organization of a workshop in 2005; fellowships for country liaison personnel to meet with partners to detail national roll-out plans; funding for the recruitment and travel of experts for in-country launches; support for production of a promotional video of the Summit initiative; and participation in a parallel workshop for the NEPAD e-school initiative during the Summit itself.

12. UNCTAD, in collaboration with the African Development Bank, organized a round table on financing ICT for development as a parallel event to the second phase of the World Summit in Tunis. Under the theme "Connect Africa", and in cooperation with the canton of Geneva, customized training was provided to ICT engineers and technicians from least developed African countries. Some 20 engineers and technical personnel have been trained in Lesotho and a second project has been launched in Mali.

13. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continued its support for the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology, to help African member States to establish sustainable national and regional information and communication technologies capabilities for training and education in the fields of nuclear science and technology, relating to agriculture, human health, environmental monitoring, water resources management and related fields.

14. In the energy and water sector, ECA has spearheaded efforts of United Nations bodies to establish UN-Energy/Africa, a collaborative inter-agency mechanism in support of the NEPAD energy agenda. Activities implemented to date include the development of a UN-Energy/Africa Web information-sharing and clearinghouse forum; the first mini/micro hydropower capacity-building and investment project in Africa; an African stakeholders' policy dialogue forum; and a joint IAEA/ECA

initiative for training programmes on capacity-building in integrated resource planning.

15. One focus of IAEA cooperation in Africa is on the application of isotope hydrology techniques to help member States to design and implement national strategies for rational exploitation and management of ground water resources. In 2005, IAEA technical cooperation projects in the water sector, in partnership with other development agencies, have focused on national and regional problems.

B. Governance, peace and security

16. The work of this cluster has two objectives: to promote good governance, and to provide support for peace and security efforts in Africa. High priority is given to: assisting African countries in the African Peer Review Mechanism process; strengthening their public administration systems; and supporting post-conflict reconstruction.

17. ECA participated in nine peer-review country support missions, two country follow-up support missions and three review missions organized by the African Peer Review secretariat. Staff members participated in support missions to Ghana, Rwanda, Mauritius, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Algeria, South Africa and Benin. ECA support to the African Peer Review Mechanism process also included reviewing and/or producing relevant documents, such as country self-assessment reports, country programmes of action, country profiles and background and issues papers.

18. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has actively provided direct technical and administrative support to the African Peer Review panel and secretariat. To date, 26 African countries have acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism. Of the nine countries that have received country support missions led by a panel member, UNDP has participated in eight (Algeria, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda). UNDP has also supported the countries in their national self-assessment processes; provided institutional support to the African Peer Review focal points setting up national structures to oversee the process; and organized sensitization workshops. UNDP, as one of the key strategic partners, has provided technical support to the panel and the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat, contributing to the preparation of periodic reports and issues papers. In partnership with the African Peer Review panel, ECA and the Africa Development Bank and others, UNDP is planning to hold the sixth Africa Governance Forum in Kigali in May 2006.

19. Support by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to NEPAD in the area of governance falls under two broad categories: the application of innovative tools and approaches; and advocacy and dissemination of good practices in governance and public administration. The Africa Governance Inventory Portal (http://www.unpan.org) is a self-service facility developed in 2003 and made available to African States to support ongoing governance efforts in the region. The portal assists Governments in Africa and their development partners to improve programming, coordination, monitoring, evaluation and mobilization of resources in governance. Since its inception, the portal has been highly effective in promoting dialogue with donors on the adoption of reliable tools for assessing governance performance. In August 2005, the Department collaborated with the NEPAD secretariat in back-stopping the formal inauguration of the African Management

Development Institute Network. The Department also developed concrete proposals to enhance the capacity of management development institutes to plan and execute comprehensive ethics and professionalism mainstreaming programmes for African public services.

20. The humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction sub-cluster, which is chaired by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has two key responsibilities: developing integrated projects to respond to humanitarian crises; and promoting post-conflict recovery for countries in transition and those that have emerged from conflict situations. It has been agreed that the sub-cluster will prioritize support to the African Union through the development and dissemination of a post-conflict reconstruction and development framework. The framework is an African Union project, which evolved out of recognition by African Union member States that, in order to reverse the high incidence of countries relapsing into conflict, sustainable post-conflict recovery strategies were necessary. The first meeting of the African Union on the issue took the form of a brainstorming retreat by the organization's Peace and Security Council and other African Union member States in Durban, South Africa, in September 2005. The meeting endorsed the overall directions proposed by the draft framework, including its proposed constitutive elements. A meeting of international and African experts on post-conflict reconstruction and development was convened at African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa in February 2006 to review the proposed framework.

21. UNHCR has also initiated a project to compile preliminary reports on post-conflict recovery and reconstruction in 14 countries. The reports provide background information, analysis of causes of conflicts and ongoing recovery and reconstruction activities, and attempt to identify critical needs and gaps in past and current interventions. The first report on Angola was recently completed; reports on Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and the Sudan are expected by mid-March.

22. The supply of substantive and organizational secretariat support by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on Guinea-Bissau and Burundi will continue with their mandate extension until the substantive session of the Council for 2006. The groups promote a comprehensive approach to peace and development for the two countries, advocating long-term support to their development efforts, in line with the approach promoted by NEPAD.

23. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has focused its support on building the capacity of regional organizations to mainstream gender in all their processes, ensuring effective participation of women in peace negotiations and reconstruction efforts, elevating the issue of gender-based violence at the national and regional levels, and providing support for the five-year review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). UNIFEM is active in policy advocacy, facilitating women's effective participation in peace negotiations, such as in the Great Lakes Region, Somalia, the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Burundi and Sierra Leone. UNIFEM established a gender unit at the ECOWAS secretariat to provide technical advice on gender issues. The partnership of UNIFEM with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union resulted in the successful inclusion of women from

Darfur in the seventh round of the Abuja peace talks held by the Union in November 2005.

C. Agriculture, trade and market access

24. The objectives of the agriculture, trade and market access cluster are to assist efforts to increase food security and agricultural development and to improve Africa's access to foreign markets. Implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme is a key factor in achieving the first objective.

25. ECA participated in the five regional implementation meetings held in 2005, including the Accra summit in May 2005, which resulted in the adoption of an action plan for the implementation of the above-mentioned programme, and in a NEPAD retreat on the action plan to advance the implementation of the programme agenda at the regional and country levels (24 and 25 October 2005 in Pretoria).

26. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) assisted the NEPAD secretariat in the preparation of a companion document covering livestock, fisheries and forestry subsectors to expand the scope of the original programme. The three draft chapters were completed in 2005 and reviewed by the African Union and the NEPAD secretariat. The forestry chapter of the document includes forestry proposals under the NEPAD environmental initiative, drawing heavily on the FAO forestry outlook study for Africa in its analysis of the current status of forests and forestry, the key issues to be addressed and in proposing strategic intervention areas. The fisheries chapter of the document identifies weak institutional framework, poor and ineffective fisheries management and the lack of human and financial resources as the most critical constraints facing marine fisheries. The livestock chapter highlights the importance of livestock, which accounts for over 50 per cent of the agricultural capital stock in sub-Saharan Africa. The average contribution of livestock to agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) is around 30 per cent.

27. FAO has also provided financial and technical support to accelerate the implementation of the programme at both the national and regional levels. Efforts at the regional level have been directed at supporting the NEPAD secretariat and the African regional economic communities. FAO has supported the formulation of national medium-term investment programmes and bankable project profiles, financed under FAO technical cooperation programmes and an Italian trust fund. The investment programmes are broad frameworks for promoting agriculture and rural development. As at the end of January 2006, almost 200 project profiles had been prepared. FAO has also offered support to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional programme on agricultural water management for food security, and to ECOWAS in preparing a concept note on regional agriculture investment that includes seven thematic areas for intervention.

28. As a follow-up to the memorandum of understanding signed between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and NEPAD to help the NEPAD secretariat access and use the contributions from African civil society organizations, IFAD has prepared a support programme for partnership-building and collaboration between NEPAD and civil society, including farmers' organizations, the private sector and other key stakeholders in participatory programming. More specifically, the programme provides technical assistance in the participatory design

of selected agricultural projects. In May 2005, IFAD also took part in a NEPAD summit on the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme held in Accra. To support NEPAD in implementing the recommendations of the summit, IFAD representatives attended a retreat in Pretoria, in October 2005. IFAD is currently playing a key role in specific NEPAD initiatives aimed at scaling up innovation, including through its New Rice for Africa project, the dissemination of processing technologies and the development of regional markets for cassava. As regards the latter, a programme has been developed for the promotion of innovative cassava processing and marketing opportunities, combined with knowledge management and capacity-strengthening. A cassava processing and marketing initiative for sub-Saharan Africa will contribute to increasing the income of stakeholders throughout the commodity chain.

29. The assistance of the World Food Programme (WFP) to NEPAD focuses on the two priority areas identified in the memorandum of understanding signed three years ago. WFP, in collaboration with other partners, supported a high-level seminar to review the conclusions and recommendations of a study on emergency food reserve systems and to discuss and share lessons learned and current experiences of food reserve systems, contingency planning, early warning information and the impact of cross-border trade in promoting regional food security. The recommendations, together with priorities for early action, were on the agenda of four regional implementation planning meetings of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme organized by NEPAD in 2005. The NEPAD secretariat, WFP and the Millennium Hunger Task Force launched a pilot home-grown school feeding and health programme designed to link school feeding to agricultural development through the purchase and use of locally and domestically produced food. Ten African countries have been selected by NEPAD to pilot the home-grown school feeding programme.

30. In 2005, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) technical cooperation programme in Africa in the area of food and agriculture supported several national and regional projects in member States aimed at poverty alleviation and food security goals. The activities mainly concern the application of radiation and isotopes in pest control, with special emphasis on tsetse fly eradication, crop improvement, and improving livestock productivity through artificial insemination and feed supplementation. One of the main areas of the IAEA technical cooperation programme in Africa is the transfer of a sterile insect technique in the context of area-wide integrated pest management, to create tsetse fly-free zones in selected areas in African member States. In that context, the Agency continued to contribute directly to the Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign through the implementation of one regional and nine national technical cooperation projects, in Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

31. In the area of livestock, IAEA is implementing a regional project to support, within the framework of a strategic partnership with the African Union, the global effort of control and eradication of major transboundary animal diseases affecting livestock in the region led by the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources. The project aims at helping African countries improve national capacities for diagnosis and control of major epizootics, thereby facilitating participation in international markets.

32. Working closely with the African Union, ECA has spearheaded activities aimed at ensuring that African countries achieve the best results possible from the ongoing negotiations at the World Trade Organization and the European Union on partnership agreements. Activities include training workshops and high-level brainstorming sessions that bring together experts and negotiators to build common positions, strengthen the negotiating position of African countries and conduct analytical studies that propose policy recommendations and strategies to improve competitiveness and market access.

33. UNCTAD continues to support African countries in strengthening their participation in World Trade Organization negotiations under the Doha round, specifically in terms of market access (agriculture, non-agricultural market access and services), rules negotiations and the development agenda. Such assistance was provided in the preparatory process leading to the sixth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference. Assistance was provided to individual African countries, the African group of trade negotiators in Geneva, the African Union trade ministers' conferences in Cairo (June 2005) and Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania (November 2005), as well as to African groups such as SADC and COMESA. UNCTAD also continued to provide capacity-building and technical assistance on a number of other trade-related issues, including: competition law and trade policy and sustainable rural development; promotion of the production and export of organic agricultural products; and regional cooperation. UNCTAD has also launched the Biotrade and BioFuels initiatives, from which African countries are benefiting. The Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance currently benefits 23 African countries (Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia).

34. The World Trade Organization provides a range of technical assistance and training activities in support of African countries in the area of trade. In 2005, 45 per cent of its national and 38 per cent of its regional trade-related technical assistance were directed at African countries.

35. The integrated technical assistance programme is implemented jointly by the International Trade Centre (ITC), UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization. The programme, currently in phase II and expected to be completed in early 2007, is mainly aimed at building the capacity of beneficiary countries in the multilateral trading system. Module 2 of the programme, in which the World Trade Organization plays a leading role, is aimed at enhancing the dissemination of information on the multilateral trading system through the establishment/strengthening of reference centres and national enquiry points and training operators for them. The consolidation in 2005 of the implementation for the eight original countries involved in the programme (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda), is expected to exit the programme by 31 December 2005. Technical and training missions comprising resource persons from ITC, UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization were undertaken to all these countries (the training mission to Kenya was already carried out in 2004).

36. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has continued its technical assistance programmes in Africa in the framework of the

African Productive Capacity Initiative adopted by the African Union in 2004 as the sustainable industrial development component of NEPAD. Inside the framework, UNIDO and the World Trade Organization jointly launched a cotton initiative aimed at improving the quality, standards and technology upgrading of cotton processing in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.

D. Environment, population and urbanization

37. The principal objective of the environment, population and urbanization cluster is to promote sustainable development policies in Africa and, in particular, to assist in the implementation of the NEPAD Action Plan for the Environment initiative.

38. As of May 2005, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in partnership with the NEPAD secretariat, the African regional economic communities and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, organized in Algiers, Abuja, Djibouti City, Libreville and Gaborone, a subregional consultative meeting to review the draft reports of subregional environmental action plans. Between March and September 2006, five subregional meetings will be held to endorse and adopt the respective subregional environmental action plans. Support will be provided to the regional economic communities to develop a project database of ongoing projects and programmes in the subregion.

39. UNEP has continued to implement activities related to the NEPAD priority of improving health and environment through reduced urban air pollution. The main activities to improve urban air pollution have been to support the elimination of the use of leaded gasoline, the introduction of vehicular catalytic converters, and the lowering of sulphur levels in fuels, particularly in diesel. UNEP is also assisting 12 African countries through the national capacity self-assessment project, which involves the identification of national-level priorities and needs for capacity-building to address global environmental issues, in particular: biological diversity, climate change, persistent organic pollutants and land degradation (with the aim of catalysing domestic and/or externally assisted action to meet those needs in a coordinated and planned manner). Most countries are at advanced stages of completing their self-assessment reports and action plans.

40. UNEP has continued to provide support in the development of the African 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production in the context of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the NEPAD Action Plan for the Environment. UNEP has worked with the Federal Ministry of the Environment and Nuclear Safety of Germany on a task force on collaboration with Africa, for the further development and implementation of the framework of programmes.

41. As a manager of the Marrakesh Process on sustainable consumption and production, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is partly responsible for supporting the implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes. The Department plans on working closely with the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment at the UNEP regional office for Africa.

42. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has been carrying out technical cooperation and development activities in various African countries, which have had a positive impact on the implementation of NEPAD objectives. The activities include urban development and improvement of housing; support to good local governance and urban security; slum upgrading; training and capacity-building for effective shelter delivery; and decentralization and strengthening of local authorities. The NEPAD cities programme is a major component of efforts by UN-Habitat to address NEPAD objectives directly. The programme was formulated as a means of achieving quick results for NEPAD. Phase I was concluded successfully, and its global report will be published before June 2006 and is scheduled to be circulated in Vancouver, Canada, in conjunction with the third session of the World Urban Forum, organized by UN-Habitat at the invitation of the Government of Canada. The proposed priority issues for phase II of the programme will focus on (a) promoting NEPAD cities (number to double from 7 to 12) as engines of growth and tools for regional integration; (b) raising awareness and sensitizing local authorities and local communities to the relevance of NEPAD objectives for African development; and (c) enhancing the capacity of local authorities to assist national Governments in addressing NEPAD objectives and managing the delivery of basic services.

43. Following the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Commission of the African Union, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) approved a cooperation project agreement, aimed at strengthening the Commission's institutional and technical capacity. UNFPA supported the development of a continental reproductive health policy framework, approved by the Ministers of Health of the States members of the African Union in Gaborone and endorsed by the Executive Council of the Union in Khartoum in January 2006. UNFPA supported the Commission in the development of a draft pan-African youth policy and a concept paper on pan-African youth. Both papers were discussed with youth and expert groups from the continent. Subsequently, the Fund has pledged to support the Youth Forum and the Youth Ministerial meeting before the Commission tables the draft policy for the meeting of the Executive Council in the middle of 2006. UNFPA supported the Commission in preparing a report on selected positive cultural practices in Africa (with examples from 30 African countries). The selected practices were associated with social support systems linked with, inter alia, poverty reduction and women's empowerment. In addition, UNFPA is providing technical services to the Commission for: (a) the review and development of strategies for strengthening African health systems; (b) the identification of model health projects (best practices); (c) developing strategies for implementation of the road map on acceleration of the reduction of maternal and newborn mortality in Africa.

44. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is helping to prepare African countries to cope with safer shipping and cleaner environment. Some Flag States have been assisted through training courses on marine pollution prevention and protection of the marine environment. In 2005, assistance was given to Ghana, Cameroon, Mauritania, Gabon and South Africa, to prepare national oil spill contingency plans. More than 200 nationals were trained.

45. In 2005, UNIDO, in close cooperation with the ministries of the environment and with the Ozone units of the recipient countries, elaborated and implemented seven investment projects in Egypt, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (phase out-projects); Morocco fumigants (cut flowers and horticulture);

the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (horticulture); and Zimbabwe (tobacco) to phase out approximately 467.40 equivalent (standardized) tons of ozone-depleting substances from commercial and domestic refrigeration, aerosols, solvents and fumigants. The fumigants projects included surrogates for methyl bromide in three investment projects with the task to phase out 110 tons of ozone-depleting substances.

46. In the area of climate change, in 2005 UNIDO implemented a project for 11 sub-Saharan francophone countries, aimed at providing Government focal points to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and representatives from the private sector with training and assistance to improve their capacity to handle the clean development mechanism project cycle, and to enhance their ability to identify, develop and prepare industrial clean development projects to a degree where they could be picked up by investors. The countries concerned include Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Togo.

E. Human resources development, employment and HIV/AIDS

47. The human resources development, employment and HIV/AIDS cluster comprises three sub-clusters: education, employment and HIV/AIDS. As part of the work on education, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) assisted the Commission of the African Union in the finalization of the review of the African Decade of Education, as recommended by the Conference of African Ministers of Education, and in restructuring of its Department for Human Resources, Sciences and Technology. The review document was adopted by a conference of ministers of education in Addis Ababa, on 15 January 2006. At its sixth session in Khartoum (23 and 24 January 2006), the Assembly of the African Union adopted a decision on the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) and the framework for the plan of action of the decade. UNESCO will follow up on the decision made at the African Union summit by assisting in the finalization of the action plan of the Second Decade and its implementation, mainly through UNESCO field offices and institutes in Africa.

48. UNESCO organized a meeting on Education for All coordinators from 13 to 15 June 2005 to review the Dakar Plan of Action. A document containing a review and prospects was released on that occasion to provide a basis for the formulation and adjustment of education policies in Africa. Three relatively neglected yet important aspects of the Education For All agenda are being implemented during the biennium 2006-2007: the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment; the teacher training initiative in sub-Saharan Africa; and the Global Initiative on HIV/AIDS and Prevention Education. All three initiatives have timelines extending to 2015. The Literacy Initiative for Empowerment is a programme of action targeting countries with low literacy rates and high populations (in excess of 10 million), which have initiated literacy skills initiatives and learning opportunities within the framework of the United Nations Literacy Decade: Education for All. They include 18 countries from Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

49. UNESCO prepared a document on the theme "Education and culture in Africa's quest for development", which sought to demonstrate the linkages between education and culture as key ingredients for the sustainable development of the continent. The document was presented at both meetings of ministers of education and culture, in preparation for the sixth African Union summit, held in Khartoum from 23 to 24 January 2006, which reaffirmed the linkage between culture and education and in the role in sustainable socio-economic development.

50. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has continued to implement programmes in African countries relating to: employment strategies and productivity; entrepreneurial initiatives; promotion of human resources and skills that are directly relevant to employment and income generation; labour-intensive development projects; promotion of cooperatives; the ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and social protection and its extension to the informal economy; and labour migration. Existing cooperation between ILO and the African Union will serve to map out future cooperation between the two institutions, especially in relation to the process and outcome of the extraordinary summit of the African Union on poverty alleviation and employment, held in Ouagadougou in 2004. The relevance of the report of the ILO World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization to NEPAD policies and goals has been widely acknowledged.

51. The Africa regional office of the World Health Organization (WHO) in partnership with the NEPAD secretariat and the African Council for Sustainable Health Development, co-hosted a consultation meeting on the crises facing human resources for health in the African region. Meeting participants elaborated key recommendations, including strategies and follow-up interventions to resolve the crises in human resources for the health sector. The regional office has also provided further impetus towards the achievement of the objectives of the NEPAD health strategy in the African region, one of the most important features of the WHO country cooperation strategy implemented in 46 countries in the African region.

52. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), within the framework of the task force on education in Africa, contributed to the preparatory work on the NEPAD framework on education, science and technology, leading to the ministerial conference on education in Algiers in May 2005. In follow up to the plan of action adopted at the conference, IOM has provided, at the request of member States, technical support to African countries to develop programmes focused on utilizing the skills and knowledge of expatriates in support of the education sector (for example, the Ghana-Ethiopia youth exchange programme). IOM has also been working closely with the African Union and NEPAD to develop a continent-wide plan of action and a strategy on human resources development. In collaboration with the African Capacity Building Foundation, the International Organization for Migration brought together 22 countries in East and Southern Africa to establish a common policy framework for discussing and analysing issues associated with migration and development in the region. The key objective of the workshop, held in Harare in October 2005, was to define a human resources development policy that would focus on the retention, utilization and mobilization of available resources locally and in the diaspora and on the effective supply of human capital for both the private and public sectors.

53. UNFPA and the NEPAD secretariat signed a letter of understanding under which UNFPA would provide support to the secretariat on mainstreaming HIV/AIDS education across all sectors, develop peer review indicators and sensitize and develop the capacity of NEPAD advisers, professional staff and management on gender issues. UNFPA has also participated in consultation meetings on the role of the African Union Commission in intensifying the struggle against HIV/AIDS, and has provided technical inputs to the draft HIV/AIDS strategic plan (2005-2007) and to the strategic plan of Africa AIDS Watch.

54. UNIFEM work in the area of HIV/AIDS resulted in important legislative changes in a number of countries, including legislation guaranteeing free access to anti-retroviral treatment in Togo and Burkina Faso and extending better access to treatment and support for HIV-positive women. UNIFEM continued to build the capacity of its partner institutions, such as national AIDS commissions, demobilization commissions, training institutions, universities, local governments and other civil society organizations. UNIFEM also provided technical support to national AIDS commissions for mainstreaming gender concerns into the work of their institutions and in their national policy and programme responses to HIV/AIDS.

55. IAEA is involved in the global effort to tackle the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Five countries (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda) have initiated vaccine studies and are collaborating in a study to incorporate nuclear techniques to describe the genetic diversity of the virus for the purposes of vaccine development, assess immune responses in infected individuals and monitor the emergence of drug resistance. In connection with the memorandum of understanding concluded with the WHO regional office for Africa, IAEA continued its support under a regional project providing support for the African AIDS vaccine programme, a network of scientists funded by WHO.

F. Science and technology

56. Supporting Africa's effort to build and strengthen its scientific and technological capacity is the primary objective of the thematic cluster. In this regard, UNESCO supported the NEPAD secretariat and the African Union Commission in organizing a second meeting of African Ministers of science and technology, which was held in Dakar, from 12 to 17 September 2005. At the meeting, a consolidated plan of action was adopted. The sixth African Union summit in Khartoum endorsed the outcome of the ministerial conference. The summit further endorsed the establishment of a high-level African Union-NEPAD-UNESCO working group to prepare a comprehensive programme for the establishment and funding of centres of excellence in Africa for the implementation of the science and technology consolidated plan of action. As a follow-up to the recommendation on the establishment of the working group, UNESCO will convene a meeting with the NEPAD secretariat on science in April 2006.

57. ECA provides active support to the NEPAD science and technology action plan, as well as to the African green revolution and biotechnology programmes. To advance relevant issues, ECA is promoting the establishment of an African science foundation for the financing of African science and technology, and an African

green revolution centre to help implement the decisions of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1).

58. The Maastricht Economic Research Institute on Innovation and Technology of the United Nations University continued to contribute to the NEPAD African science, technology and innovation indicators initiative to develop Africa-relevant innovation survey tools and guidelines. In August 2005, a NEPAD expert working group finalized a framework document that elaborated the technical and institutional arrangements required to undertake innovation surveys in African countries, drawing on a background methodological study, designing a policy-relevant innovation survey for NEPAD, which was carried out by a United Nations University research team in 2004. The research institute is building the capacity of African policymakers and researchers through its network of innovation studies and capacity-strengthening hubs. The hubs will conduct research and facilitate networking among scholars, policymakers and development investors in this area. The hubs are also helping African researchers and practitioners to communicate with and participate in the international community of scholars working on innovation policy issues.

59. The support of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to African member States is focused on assistance in building national capacities to take full advantage of intellectual property systems. A methodology was designed to comprehensively assess the situation of intellectual property in selected African countries: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Seychelles, the Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. An assessment of the intellectual property systems of member countries of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community has also been made, covering Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. The African Intellectual Property Organization and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization requested WIPO assistance in drafting a harmonized regional instrument for the protection of traditional knowledge and cultural expressions, the first draft of which was submitted to the administrative council of the latter organization and council of ministers of the latter organization and to the administrative council of the former.

60. UNIDO has stressed the importance of improving the competitiveness of small-scale industries. Efforts have focused on efficient business licensing practices, private sector-led business advisory services (including the capacity-building of business associations) the application of ICT and the entrepreneurship and technical training of youth and women in UNIDO integrated programmes of technical assistance in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

61. In 2005, IAEA continued its commitment to the development of human resources in Africa through direct and sustained support for the efforts of Member States, with particular emphasis on education in nuclear science and technology. The African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology is an intergovernmental agreement signed by 32 African countries working together to maximize the utilization of available infrastructure and expertise in Africa in the field of nuclear science and technology and to accelerate actions towards regional self-sufficiency in the

peaceful application of such technology. With the support of IAEA, the countries organized a regional meeting to discuss issues pertaining to human resources development programmes, knowledge management and skills retention in the field of nuclear science and technology.

G. Communication, advocacy and outreach

62. The main goal of the communication and advocacy cluster is to promote global advocacy and foster international support for NEPAD. The meeting of the cluster Members in New York from 11 to 14 October 2005 was attended by representatives of the NEPAD secretariat, ECA, the Department of Public Information, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and UNDP. They examined the role of members in implementing the communications and advocacy strategy, reviewed the progress of each body in support of NEPAD advocacy and discussed proposals to enhance cooperation among cluster members.

63. The meeting reaffirmed the existing division of labour in promoting and implementing the communication and advocacy strategy, with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in the lead at the global level, ECA at the regional level and UNDP, in consultation with the Department of Public Information, at the national level. The NEPAD secretariat will operate at all levels in conjunction with the relevant United Nations bodies.

64. The cluster agreed to strengthen cooperation among its members to support communications and advocacy and also decided on a number of joint activities in the future, including periodic cluster meetings to review progress in the implementation of advocacy strategy and to organize a training fellowship programme for African journalists who report on NEPAD and African development subjects.

III. Policy issues in the implementation of the New Partnership

A. Innovative approaches developed in collaboration with others, for funding the priorities of the New Partnership

65. Effective resource mobilization is central to the implementation of NEPAD programmes, with African Governments leading the effort and the United Nations system playing a supportive role.

66. ECA produced useful analytical tools to help countries in their domestic resource mobilization and encourage private capital flows. The creation by ECA of continent-wide initiatives, such as the African Democratic Forum, the "Big Table", the ECA partners forum and the African Learning Group on the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, have helped to advance Africa's development agenda and offered opportunities for the mobilization of financial support for African development.

67. IMF support for NEPAD objectives embraces working with international partners to promote growth and poverty reduction in low-income African countries. The Fund has assisted African countries in related areas of capacity-building and is extending advice on adapting macroeconomic policies to handle the anticipated scaled-up aid flows necessary for financing the effort to attain the Millennium

Development Goals. Apart from capacity-building and policy advice, the Fund has assisted Africa's development efforts through direct financial support and debt relief. IMF was the first multilateral financial institution to implement the initiative agreed upon by the major donors in 2005. In January 2006, the Fund gave 100 per cent relief on debt owed to it by 13 low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa that had reached the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia).

68. The creation by the World Bank of its African Catalytic Growth Fund in February 2006 was an innovative step which will increase NEPAD project funding. The fund provides a new pilot mechanism to complement the resources of the International Development Association. One of its goals is to scale up regional investments that represent a clear opportunity to supply regional public goods. The current system of pooling of national aid entitlements does not provide sufficient resources for this type of investment.

69. An important contribution to UNCTAD work in Africa was made by the 2005 edition of the *Report on Economic Development in Africa: Rethinking the Role of Foreign Direct Investment*, which found that foreign direct investment was mainly concentrated in the extractive sectors and in a few countries with mineral and energy resources and that the benefits derived from such investment had not been commensurate with expectations such as job creation, transfer of technology, backward and forward linkages with the rest of the economy, and other "spillovers" usually attributed to foreign direct investment.

70. UNDP has mobilized funding for an African Union support project, totalling $7.1 million, to which UNDP contributed $2.5 million, with Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland covering the balance. The project focuses on: capacity-building of the Peace and Security Department; ensuring the effective operation of the Peace and Security Council; strengthening institutions and programmes for preventive diplomacy, peace and security; and developing and executing the strategy for creating greater awareness of African Union efforts and mobilizing resources for its peace and security agenda.

71. In order to mobilize resources for the implementation of the NEPAD environment action plan, UNEP organized two donor conferences (held in Algiers, in December 2003 and Dakar in March 2005) to deliberate on the financial mechanism for its implementation. UNEP attended a consultative meeting on the establishment of an African environment facility, held at the headquarters of the African Development Bank in Tunis, from 22 to 26 November 2005. Discussions were held on the objectives of the proposal facility and practical modalities for its establishment. UNEP will fund a study to be undertaken on the proposed facility.

72. Reflecting the importance of mobilizing domestic and external resources for achieving the objectives of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing Countries and IOM assisted in the organization of a ministerial conference on enhancing the developmental impact of remittances, held on 9 and 10 February 2006 in Cotonou, Benin. At the two-day conference, discussions were held on improving remittance services and enhancing

their development impact and on current flows, patterns and trends and policies and practices governing remittances in the least developed countries. The ministerial declaration outlined recommendations for enhancing the developmental impact of remittances, including: developing capacity, instruments and institutions to maximize the potential of remittances in the development of least developed countries; building inclusive financial sectors that link remittances to other forms of financial intermediation; microfinance and safety net mechanisms; creation of small and medium-size enterprises; and engaging diasporas and home town associations in national development processes of least developed countries.

73. With the support of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, in February 2006 the Secretary General's Advisory Panel on International Support for NEPAD organized a consultation visit to the headquarters of the European Commission in Brussels in order to establish a dialogue with senior officials on European Union trade and aid policy and commitments towards Africa, including institutional development support for the African Union.

B. Advocacy and awareness-raising on the implementation of the New Partnership

74. In addition to the work undertaken by the cluster on communication, advocacy and outreach, several entities of the United Nations system have taken measures in the past year to raise awareness of progress in the implementation of NEPAD. Using the Stanhope Fellowship, ECA conducted a training workshop on NEPAD for East-African journalists in July 2005. In February 2006, in partnership with UNESCO and non-governmental organizations, ECA conducted a regional training workshop on reporting on biotechnology. For the rest of 2006, ECA will continue to develop and maintain a website on NEPAD, including the e-discussion list for each of the seven thematic clusters, with the objective to improve intra-cluster dialogue and facilitate cross-sectoral programming and implementation within clusters.

75. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa organized a media expert meeting/briefing on 15 December 2005 for a select group of journalists from print and electronic media in the United States of America who cover African issues. The importance of periodic briefings on progress in the implementation of NEPAD was emphasized at the meeting. Moreover, several journalists were invited to events organized by the Office, namely the panel discussions on multi-stakeholders' perspectives on the implementation of NEPAD held in New York on 13 October 2005, and the expert meeting on "Greater democratic governance in Africa: strategies for participation of women", held in Arusha from 6 to 8 December 2005.

76. UNESCO, in pursuing NEPAD priorities, is mobilizing its institutional partners (for example, national commissions and non-governmental organizations) to conduct future-oriented studies, reflections and analyses. It is also organizing conferences and participating in meetings in order to contribute to a better understanding of African Union programmes with a view to supporting the implementation of NEPAD.

C. Challenges and constraints

77. As the implementation of NEPAD has evolved, several challenges and constraints have emerged, mainly concerning issues of coordination, collaboration and funding. A frequently cited challenge is weak coordination at the cluster level, as seen in the lack of predictable schedules for meetings, which has led to reduced opportunities for inter-cluster and intra-cluster sharing of experiences and information. Furthermore, although the agencies have indicated interest in working together, efforts at joint programming and implementing joint programmes in support of NEPAD have been limited.

78. Lack of adequate funding has hindered the ability of several agencies to participate in cluster meetings, reduced incentives for joint programmes and limited their capacity to provide more technical assistance and other operational support to NEPAD programmes.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

79. **Strengthening the support of the United Nations system for NEPAD will require selected actions. To improve inter-agency coordination, in particular at the cluster level, it is essential for agencies to improve on information sharing about their ongoing activities and to agree on predictable schedules of meetings, both for clusters and regional consultation meetings.**

80. **Cluster members should hold periodic dialogue with ECA and the relevant African institution partners, especially the African Union and NEPAD secretariat, on the nature and scope of their support. The regional consultation meetings should serve as the mechanism for monitoring follow-up actions decided upon in the clusters.**

81. **The agencies should also endeavour to undertake joint programming in support of NEPAD. Implementing these proposals calls for great determination and commitment.**